(d) who are mainly responsible for not utilising money;

(e) the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Under the various centrally sponsored schemes funds are released by the Central Government to the State Governments/ Implementing Agencies and no funds are lying unutilized with the Central Government. However, some funds remain unutilized with State Governments/Implementing Agencies in the course of implementation of the projects. The financial and physical progress under various Centrally sponsored schemes is regularly monitored by Central Government through quarterly progress reports, review meetings and field visits.

DDA under scanner

1324. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to place DDA under the microscope scanner to cull out graft;

(b) if so, whether there would be a nodal officer monitoring the DDA and a special task force for fly-overs;

(c) if so, to what extent this will help to combat the rampant corruption and the presence of touts and middlemen; and

(d) to what extent it has helped

Government to check the corruption in this department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Government has instructed DDA to improve its functioning through computerization, elimination of subjectivity, strengthening of grievances redressal mechanism and bring transparency in its functioning and check corruption.

DDA has reported that they have initiated various preventive and punitive steps to streamline its functioning, to being in more transparency in the system and to check corrupt practices. The cases of corruption are enquired into by DDA's Vigilance Wing and other criminal investigating agencies and penal action taken after following the procedure.

No nodal officer has been appointed to monitor the DDA, nor any special task force for flyovers has been set up. However, the quality of work of flyovers is checked by the DDA internally through the Chief Engineer (Quality Control) in DDA and other agencies like Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd., (RITES).

Private Participation in IDSMT

1325. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Programme for Development of Small and Medium Towns failed to make any considerable headway during the two decades 1981—2001, so much so that of the 4656 such towns, projects were sanctioned only in 1058 towns;

(b) if so, the latest appraisal of the programme and the reasons for its failure;

(c) whether private sector participation could not be mustered for the programme; and

(d) if so, the reasons for failure in registering private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) 1213 towns have been covered under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) scheme out of 4565 small and medium towns in the country as per 1991 census till June 30, 2002, which were eligible under the Scheme. The coverage of towns under the Scheme is dependent upon the availability of budgetary resources.